REGGIO AND MESSINA AS I KNEW THEM.

From the Scarlet Poppies, Sweet Mignonettes and Violets of Happy Southern Italy to the Black Ruin and Desolation that Followed the Earthquake. .. ANTONIO MANGANO.

Commons Press Bureau.)

much that was beautiful has been de- awful instant. stroyed.")

The awful disaster which has fallen upon two of the most important cities of southern Italy and numerous adjaits natural beauty, can only be imagined by most of us. Those who have been fortunate enough to visit this locality will remember the indescribable charm and fascination of that entire section. The towering mountains of Calabria and Sicily face each other like giant sentinels across the strait and give abundant evidence of their union in ages gone by. At their feet. each close to the water's edge, lie Reggio on the Calabrian and Messina

on the Sicilian shore. These are ancient sites of human abode with a history reaching back into the eighth century B. C. Both have passed through frightful ordeals; wars, pestilence and earthquakes, have laid were nearly blotted out by a violent Reggio, ancient Rhegium, is the capi-

tal city of the province of the same the streets were broad and straight. vious earthquakes. Nearly all the houses were constructed of light colored stone or finished with a cream colored stucco, so that looking at the city from a distance it had the appearance of a light haze rising from the sea and breaking the dense green of the surrounding orange and lemon groves. with her comments and questions ever the water-front, and was the chief the husband, who was bunched toadbusiness quarter. From it other well paved streets extended by broad, easy steps up the slopes of the hillside upon old lady seemingly exhausted every Following one of these streets we came | woodcraft and personal history when to a fine boulevard la Strada Reggio she suddenly espied one of those curiheights overlooking the town. There ous paths of oily, unbroken water freow, with a chain of little towns ex- ruffled by a light breeze. tending along the coast on either side, and high above them villas of the wealthy and the white-washed peasant huts dotting the fertile fields.

The district affected seriously by the earthquake extends north of Reggio for thirty miles up the west coast of Italy as far as Palmi. The newspaper reports tell us that nearly all the towns in this area were destroyed and most of their inhabitants killed. This is probable even in the small towns. The streets were narrow alleys or rough stone stairways leading irregularly up the mcuntain sides. The stone huts were built so closely to one another,back to back -the lower story of the one being on a level with the second story of the house below it. There were no open squares save the one or two little plazzas, so that in case of an earthquake there was no way of escape except flight to the open fields,-and when earthquakes come during the hours of the night the people are generally caught and escape is cut off. Towns further north, even as far north as Cosenza, felt the shock and some slight damage was done.

From Villa San Giovanni and Reggio there were two lines of ferry-boats which cross the strait to Messina; on one were transported all the through express trains from Berlin and Rome to Palermo, so that the ordinary tourist saw little of either Reggio or Mes-

As one approached the Sicilian shore low-lying Messina was seen. At some and so on, until his interlocutor guessdistance it seemed as thought part of ed to whom he was referring. Even the buildings were below the water the names of common objects often level, but as the boat neared the shore, the water line fell and the buildings rose. The splendid harbor was always sion when he wanted an umbrella he a scene of activity. Ships and small said: "I can't tell its name, but I can craft of every description crowded one another for landing places along the Marina (Corso Vittorio Emanuelle.) The substantial row of buildings fac- a pathetic scene when he attended ing the harbor was used for stores and offices. It was in one of these buildings that our American consulate had its quarters. Just above the Marina were the beautiful public gardens, while beand these was the section of the shore hat was reserved for bathing pavil-

Messina was at all times a prosperoffs city,-more so than Reggio. Her records show that in spite of the fact that hundreds of emigrants left her port every year, her population was steadily increasing, mainly by immigration from other parts of Italy. This was probably due to a great extent to her large and excellent harbor and her commanding position on the strait, which made her the connecting link between Sicily and the mainland. All through trains for Palermo or Syracuse must pass through Messina. The city was well built and modern looking. On pleasant evenings-and Messina has many of them.—the streets and the brilliantly lighted cafes were filled with well-dressed and happy peo-Walking through the city you came occasionally upon little piazzas which were ornamented with palms and flowers and perhaps a fountain in

The city had been through so many disasters that it contained fewer monuments of the past than most Italian 'les. Its most ancient building was the cathedral, a Norman structure of the eleventh century, which had been demolished and restored so many times that little of the original building re-

The splendid drive from Messina to Faro is of be forgotten. On the one side lie the blue waters of the strait which come close to the edge of the road,-on the other the towering tion for nervous debility, lack of vigor, mountains rise abruptly into the air weakened manhood, failing memory from the roadway with a continuous and lame back, brought on by exline of little houses clinging to their cesses, unnatural drains or the follies feet. Everywhere are hugh cactuses,— of youth, that has cured so many worn fichi d' India,-a delicious fruit; here lemons sell for sixty cents a thousand. These same railroad tracks have on either side hedges of giant geraniums four or five feet high, which are in blossom all the year. The entire region is justly famed as the garden spot to send a copy of the prescription, free of Italy. In March the fields are ablaze of charge, in a plain, ordinary sealed with scarlet poppies,—the hillsides are covered with purple clover. The whole island is a veritable bower of flowers, especially in the late winter and the lets, the trailing barba di giove, and of men, and I am convinced it is the many other flowers whose names I do surest-acting combination for the cure not know grow in wild profusion.

But to return to Faro. The town was so called from the lighthouse built there to warn sailors of the dangerous whirlpool of Charybdis. From this that any man, anywhere who is weak point Calabria appeared at her best. The various little hamlets, villas, peasant's huts, terraced gardens and rug- ful patent medicines, secure what, ged mountains all stood out in won- believe, is the quickest-acting, restor derful clearness. Just above Villa ative, upbuilding, SPOT-TOUCHING Viovanni on the Calabrian shore was remedy ever devised, and so, cure himthe old town of Scilla (Scylla) built self at home quietly and quickly. Just upon the rocky promontory which was drop me a line like this: Dr. A. E. so much feared by the sailors of Homer Robinson, 4125 Luck Bldg., Detroit, and Virgil. Beyond and above Scilla Mich., and I will send you a copy of lay the town of Bagnara and still further beyond might be seen the light ary sealed envelope, free of charge.

(Exclusive Service Charities and The | colored buildings of Palmi, which were also lost. This is the northern limit of the disastrous effects of the earth-(Mr. Mangano is a native of Italy quake, although shocks were felt so and has but recently returned from far north as Cantanzzaro and Cosenza. that country where he spent some time It seems unthinkable that so much that was beautiful has been destroyed The the earthquake district. As he con- and that so many thousands of human cludes, "It seems unthinkable that so lives have been crushed out in an

Knew His Limitations.

"I proph'sied he'd make a living," Mr. Hobart said, speaking of a New cent towns, in a region celebrated for York painter who spent a summer at his farm, "because he knew what he could do, little as 'twas, and didn't try to fly too high.

"Yes," Mr. Hobart continued, with a houghtful smile, "you couldn't get him to attempt any foolish flights. All that summer he set out in the hen yard, painting hens, or else out back o' the barn, painting pigs. And when said to him, 'Look a-here, when Abe Fowler comes to paint the house I'll get him to show you how and let you take a hack at the side end, where 'twon't show so much and allow it on these cities low time and again. The your board,' he just shook his head and smiled that kind o' gentle, sorrow-these towns was in 1783 when they earthquake. But in spite of all these think of it, Mr. Hobart. I should just disasters, Reggio and Messina have ruin the looks o' the house. I'll keep been industriously rebuilt by their in- to the pigs and the hens, for I know my limitations.'

"Well, 'twas a real relief to me, for name. The better part of the town I suppose likely he would have botch-has been built within the last fifty ed the job consid'able. And I said to years. Consequently, in this section him then real hearty, 'Young man, Few of the buildings were over two you'll earn your living yet, for you stories in height, the danger from high ain't all et up with pride and ambibuildings have been learned from pre- tion,' and my words have come true,

The Retort Final.

The garrulous old lady in the stern of the boat had pestered the guide The wide main street ran parallel to since they had started. Her meek litlike in the bow, fished in silence. The which a portion of Reggio was built. possible point in fish and animal life, you might see Reggio spread out be- quently seen on small lakes which are Lady Attendant

"Oh, guide, guide," she exclaimed, "what makes that funny streak in the water? No, there-right over there!" The guide was busy rebaiting the old gentleman's hook and merely mumbled, "U-m-mm."

"Guide," repeated the old lady in tones that were not to be denied, "look right over there where I'm pointing and tell me what makes that funny streak in the water."

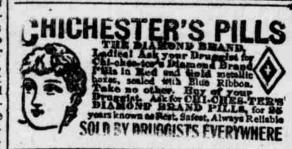
The guide looked up from his baiting, with a sigh. "That? Oh, that's where the road

went across the ice last winter."-Everybody's Magazine.

Emerson's Memory. Emerson was a notable sufferer from

the vagaries of memory. His biographer relates that he met him one day in Boston apparently at a loss for something and asked him where he was going. "To dine," said Emerson, "with a very old and dear friend. I know where she lives, but I hope she won't ask me her name." And then he proceeded to describe her as "the mother of the wife of the young man -the tall man-who speaks so well," failed him completely. On one occatell its history. Strangers take it away." This failing of Emerson led to Longfellow's funeral and remarked as he gazed at the coffin, "He was a sweet and beautiful soul, but I have entirely forgotten his name."

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Monday February 1, Wednesday, February 8, Friday, February 5, Monday, February 8, Wednesday, February 10 and Friday February 12 from 9 A. M., to 4 P. M., and on the evenings of Wednesday, February 3 and Friday, February 12 from 7 to 9 P. M. Dated at Bridgeport, this 20th day of January, 1909.

W. A. LEWIS CHAS. J. BYRNES, OWEN BURNS, JOHN C. CURTIS, Board of Relief. A 20 to B 11

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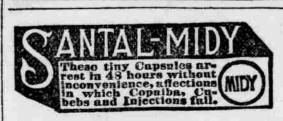
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BANK, of Bridgeport, corner Main
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Cumming, Assistant Cashier; Capital \$332,100; Surplus and Profits,
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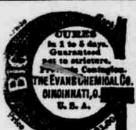
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er, 2:30 p. m. Due at Bridgeport 7:30 p. m. Leave Bridgeport, Joy Line Dock, P. M. 2:00 a. m. Arrive New York 7:00 a. m. For further information and rates M.

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100 Watt ..... 1.00

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New York New Haven

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FOR WASHINGTON, via Harlem River.- 12:30 (daily) A. M.; 1:24. N. H. MILLIKEN, Commercial Agent P. M. FOR NEW HAVEN-\*12:32, \*1:41, \*2:19, 6:50, 7:56, 8:58, \*9 86, \*10:44, \*11:33 A. M.—12:16, \*12:30,

> \*11:33 A. M.—\*2:29, \*3:46, \*4:25, \*6:32 P. M.—SUNDAYS—\*1:41, \*2:19 \*11:33 A. M.-\*2:29 \*4:25. \*6:32 FOR BOSTON, via Hartford and Willimantic-\*9:35, A. M .- \*3:30, P.

8:30 A. M.-6:45 P. M. FOR WATERBURY, ANSONIA DERBY and Intermediate Stations-5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45 A. M.— 2:35, †5:54, 7:40 P. M.—SUNDAYS.— 8:30, 10:00. A. M.-6:45, 8:50, P. M. FOR GT. BARRINGTON, LENOX, PITTSFIELD, ETC .-- 7:00, 9:50, A.M. -4:33, P. M. SUNDAYS 8:30 A. M. FOR DANBURY, NEW MILFORD, ETC., via Brookfield Junction.--7:06, 9:50, A. M.—4:33, 6:37 P. M.

FOR LITCHFIELD, ETC .-- 9:50

M.-4:33 P. M.-SUNDAYS-8:30.

envelope, to any man who will write me for it.

APPLY AT ONCE-Wanted, experienced stitchers at the Star Shirt Factory, Washington Ave., Bridgeport, Conn. Steady work in sight for a

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